

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel Claim 9 without prejudice and without dedication or abandonment of the subject matter thereof.

**REMARKS**

The present amendment is in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed September 25, 2001, in which the Examiner required an election between Invention I (Claims 1 through 8, drawn to a method for reducing capacitance between interconnect lines, classified in class 438, subclass 618) and Invention II (Claim 9, drawn to an interconnect structure, classified in class 257, subclass 522).

Applicant elects to prosecute the invention of Claims 1 through 8 (Invention I) without traverse. Applicant intends to submit a divisional application directed to non-elected Claim 9.

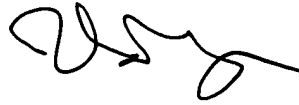
Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending Claims 1 through 8 as currently presented are in condition for allowance. If, for any reason, the Examiner disagrees, please call the undersigned attorney at 202-624-3947 in an effort to resolve any matter still outstanding *before* issuing another action. The undersigned attorney is confident that any issue which might remain can readily be worked out by telephone.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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TTM/hs